

MONO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Monday, August 13, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Town / County Conference Room
Mammoth Lakes, CA

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Hap Hazard, Chair
Kirk Stapp, Vice Chair
Neil McCarroll, Councilman
Bill Reid, Supervisor
Wendy Sugimura, Councilman
Tom Farnetti, Supervisor

Staff Present

Scott Burns, Director
Gerry LeFrancois, Planner Mono County
Gwen Plummer, Planner Mono County
Kelly Garcia, Assistant Director P/W
Bill Manning, Director Transportation Town of ML
Peter Bernasconi, Sr. Engineer Town of ML
Jennifer Hansen, Secretary

Caltrans

Ryan Dermody
Tom Meyers
Cedrick Zemitis

Others

Monicka Watterson, ESTA
Tim Hansen, Mono Basin RPAC
Mark Magit, County Counsel
Marianne O'Connor, Citizen

Agenda items may not have been taken in order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hazard at 9:04 a.m. Commissioner Stapp led the pledge of allegiance.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 11, 2007

Commissioner Stapp motioned to approve the June minutes. Seconded by Commissioner McCarroll. Abstained by Commissioner Farnetti. Passed 5/1. Those in favor: Hazard, McCarroll, Reid, Stapp and Sugimura.

3. TRANSIT

a. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) budget and allocation request

The ESTA Board has been working with a consultant to set up the administration foundation and help allocate costs. The transition from Inyo Mono Transit was smooth. Ms. Watterson presented ESTA's budget and allocation request. She stated that they will come back mid-budget with another revised allocation request as their foundation builds.

A motion was passed to allow LTC staff to adjust the difference in funds for ESTA (the allocation has already been accepted).

b. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) update

Ms. Watterson reported that they have an additional day for the Benton to Bishop route. The route was two days a week and is now running three days per week. Ms. Watterson also reported that they have suspended the Benton Dial-A-Ride service. This service generally was used for the senior citizens going to the congregate center. The service is available if needed.

Commissioner Reid inquired about the Walker Dial-A-Ride. It is still used to transport riders to medical facilities if needed. This service runs from 8:00am to 4:00pm – Monday thru Friday by reservation. It travels from Bridgeport to Carson City. The IMAAA medical escort is still utilized as well. This service is used for travel to longer distances for someone that needs more personal attention (refined escort). Walker Dial-A-Ride and IMAAA are separate entities even though their services are similar.

Chair Hazard inquired about bike racks on the buses in the Benton/Tri-Valley area. Ms. Watterson reported that most of the buses have bike racks. There is equipment to store bikes on the inside of the buses as well as long as no one is using this equipment to store a wheel chair. She also reported that all new buses have bike racks installed.

c. Transit Shelter Grant

Ms. Plummer reported that a grant was awarded for \$83,520.00 for 12 bus shelters. The commission asked if there was a list of tentative locations for these 12 shelters. Ms. Plummer distributed a tentative list.

d. Review of ridership data – Mountain Express

Ms. Watterson reported that the ridership has not increased with this service and it is continuing to struggle. With the ridership numbers down, the service is not meeting the expenditure of funds. This service has three roundtrips per day. The mid-day run from June Lake is the least utilized. It was recommended to reduce this mid-day service. Ms. Watterson feels that the service should not be suspended as it will be hard to bring back in the future. It is the decision of the commission as it is a lot of money to be spending on low ridership numbers.

Commissioner McCarroll stated that this is an excellent service and opportunity to get people out of their cars. This was a tough year for the June Lake area with the early closure of June Mountain. Commissioner McCarroll also suggested that more publicity be given to this route. He suggested utilizing Mono County Tourism and the Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation through Stu's News.

Chairman Hazard brought up the possibility of shifting the mid-day route to provide service from Tom's Place/Crowley to Mammoth. Chairman Hazard would like Ms. Watterson to bring the ridership numbers of the mid-day June Lake route to the next meeting to see if it would work to build a schedule and shift

this route. The commission will also be considering eliminating the weekend routes.

e. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) update

Mr. Burns reported that visitation numbers are up throughout the park and ridership numbers are up.

4. ADMINISTRATION

a. Consider initiating process to establish alternate commission members
Commissioner Farnetti requested that a process be established to have alternate commission members available in the event that a regular commissioner cannot be present at a meeting.

The bylaws do not require alternate members to be currently active on the Town Council, Board of Supervisors, or be an elected official. Each council will discuss how they will appoint their alternates and bring their decisions back to the LTC.

5. CALTRANS

a. Update on activities in Mono County

Mr. Dermody reported on the grand opening of the North Mohave Project. He stated that the grand opening should take place the first of September.

Mr. Meyers reported on the Safe Routes to School Programs. He reported on the federal programs SRTS and SR2S. The SRTS program is receiving \$50M for the second two years of the five year project. This program is limited to \$1M per project. The SR2S program is receiving \$52M and their project will start in September. This program is for rural counties and communities, is limited to \$500,000 per project, and requires an environmental review before a project can be started. These funds for both programs are for construction use only.

Chairman Hazard asked if these monies only apply to public schools or can they be used for private schools. Mr. Meyers stated that the funding is for a safe route to school and it does not differentiate between public or private schools. The claimant for the funds needs to be a city or a county acting on behalf of the school.

Mr. Dermody stated that he will provide an update at the next LTC meeting regarding the Post Office improvements in Coleville.

6. STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

a. Quarterly update on state projects in Mono County

Mr. Tom Myers and Mr. Cedrik Zemitis provided a handout and explained current as well as upcoming state projects in Mono County.

b. Quarterly update on projects in Town of Mammoth Lakes

Mr. Bernasconi provided a handout and explained current as well as upcoming projects in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

c. Quarterly update on projects in Mono County

Ms. Garcia updated the Commission on the status of each project in Mono County.

7. COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

a. Request for special transit service for the Mammoth Local's Reunion

Marianne O'Connor, Event Coordinator, presented a request to the LTC to use the Special Transit Fund to pay for a bus to transport participants from the Mammoth High School parking lot to Shady Rest Park. The service would be needed from 10:30am to 10:30pm. Ms. Watterson of ESTA stated that this fund can be utilized but somehow the 10% fare box requirement will need to be paid or subsidized. Commissioner Stapp motioned to support the special transit with

the Town subsidizing the 10% fare box fee of around \$107.00. Commissioner Farnetti seconded the motion. All in favor 6-0.

b. Mono Basin RPAC Resolution of Appreciation

Representing Chris Lizza and the Mono Basin RPAC, Tim Hansen read into record the Resolution of the Mono Basin RPAC showing their gratitude and appreciation for the work that went into placing the portable radar devices on at the north and south approaches of Lee Vining.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. California Regional Progress Report

b. Distribution of annual audit and performance audit

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – September 10, 2007

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 by Chair Hazard.